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## **FCEM&HS Regional Training and Exercise Program in Development**

The new FCEM&HS Regional Training and Exercise Program is now in development with the support of a workgroup consisting of subject matter experts representing ten emergency response disciplines.

The workgroup's accomplishments to date include developing three planning scenarios specific to the region. The scenarios will help define the goals and objectives for the program, ultimately guiding the way we train and exercise to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from disaster.

The Homeland Security Advisory Committee awarded FCEM&HS grant funds in 2010 to develop a regional training and exercise strategy and program to coordinate county training and exercises, expand regional collaboration and efficiently use resources.

The program will be implemented in three phases: FCEM&HS will 1) engage stakeholders, 2) develop a written training and exercise strategy and 3) implement a training and exercise program.

**Stakeholder involvement.** To gain a better understanding of the training and exercise requirements throughout the region, a needs assessment process is essential. Gathering input and completing a needs assessment will ensure the program reflects the needs and requirements of the region.

**Strategy development.** A written strategy that incorporates risk management principles and meets the needs of the region will then be developed using the input from stakeholders. The strategy will capture identified requirements and provide a plan of action for efficiently meeting those requirements. The strategy will be the basis for program implementation.

**Program implementation.** Once implemented, the Training and Exercise Program will provide coordination for training and exercises; build capabilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from all hazards; and include a tracking mechanism to enhance regional collaboration.

The program's vision is to be a center of excellence and inclusiveness, fostering a synergistic regional approach to planning, training and exercise preparedness.

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